

SECRET TELEPOUCH 9 FEBRUARY 1969

TO - C/EUR INFO - ☐

FROM - ☐

EGB-24,488

INTEL/CALL/ ☐

SUPDATA - PARA 4, ☐

☐ PARAS 2, 3 AND 6 FROM

☐ ☐ COVERAGE ON JUERGEN STANGE, VON WEDEL AND EVA VOGEL.

PARAS 5 AND 7 AND FIELD COMMENT IN PARA 3, ☐ ☐ FROM

MINISTERIAL DIRIGENT HERMAN KREUTZER. FIGURES ON THE FELFE

EXCHANGE PACKAGE WERE CONFIRMED BY ☐

☐ ☐ THAT FAMILIES OF BND AGENTS ARE ALSO

INCLUDED. NOT FOR LIAISON. NO INDEX. FILE DEFER.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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REPORT CLASS SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM CONTROLLED DISSEM

COUNTRY - EAST GERMANY/WEST GERMANY

DOI - JANUARY-6 FEBRUARY 1969

SUBJECT - 1. FINAL EAST-WEST GERMAN AGREEMENT TO  
EXCHANGE HEINZ FELFE FOR WEST GERMAN AGENTS  
2. RESUMPTION OF CHILDREN'S RANSOM PROGRAM

ACQ - GERMANY, BERLIN /JANUARY-6 FEBRUARY 1969/

FIELD NO - EGB-24,488

SOURCE - PARAGRAPHS 2, 3 AND 6 ARE FROM INTERCEPTED  
COMMUNICATIONS. PARAGRAPHS 4,5, 7 AND FIELD COMMENT IN  
PARAGRAPH 3 ARE FROM TWO OFFICIALS OF THE WEST GERMAN  
MINISTRY OF ALL-GERMAN AFFAIRS CONNECTED WITH THE PRISONER-  
EXCHANGE PROGRAM. PREVIOUS INFORMATION FROM THESE OFFICIALS  
HAS BEEN RELIABLE.

1. //FIELD COMMENT - ON 21 DECEMBER 1968, THE WEST  
GERMAN GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTED TO RESOLVE THE IMPASSE ON

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PRISONER EXCHANGES BY OFFERING TO EXCHANGE SOVIET SPY  
HEINZ FELFE FOR A NUMBER OF FORMER WEST GERMAN INTELLIGENCE  
SERVICE /BND/ AGENTS, WHO ARE IMPRISONED IN EAST GERMANY.  
IN EARLY JANUARY, THE EAST GERMANS MADE A COUNTEROFFER TO  
RELEASE MOST, BUT NOT ALL, OF THE WEST GERMANS AND THREE  
WEST GERMAN STUDENTS, WHO ARE IMPRISONED IN THE USSR, IN  
RETURN FOR FELFE. HOWEVER, WEST GERMAN APPROVAL WAS WITHHELD  
PENDING A DECISION BY CHANCELLOR KURT GEORG KIESINGER. SEE  
OGA-844 AND OGA-853.//

2. ON 4 FEBRUARY, CHANCELLOR KIESINGER INFORMED  
EVANGELICAL BISHOP HERMANN KUNST AND CATHOLIC SUFFRAGAN  
BISHOP HEINRICH TENHUMBERG THAT HE WOULD APPROVE THE

EXCHANGE OF FELFE FOR THE THREE WEST GERMAN STUDENTS,  
TWENTY FORMER BND AGENTS IN EAST GERMAN CUSTODY, AND AN  
UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES.

3. KIESINGER CONVEYED THIS LONG-AWAITED DECISION TO  
KUNST AND TENHUMBERG AT A MEETING ARRANGED BY EVANGELICAL  
BISHOP KURT SCHARF, AFTER EAST GERMAN PRISONER-EXCHANGE  
NEGOTIATOR WOLFGANG VOGEL HAD RELAYED THREATS FROM THE EAST  
GERMAN GOVERNMENT THAT THE CHANCELLOR'S PROLONGED PROCRASTINATION

COULD CAUSE THE COLLAPSE OF THE PRISONER-EXCHANGE PROGRAM. WEST BERLIN ATTORNEY REYMAR VON WEDEL, A LAY OFFICIAL OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH WHO HAD BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH VOGEL, HAD SOLICITED SCHARF'S ASSISTANCE IN PRESSURING KIESINGER. CARL-GUSTAV SVINGEL, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SWEDISH NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE LUTHERAN WORLD ORGANIZATION, WHO HAD BEEN KEPT FULLY INFORMED ON THE FELFE CASE BY ALL-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTER HERBERT WEHNER, HAD RELAYED THIS INFORMATION TO VON WEDEL. //FIELD COMMENT - AN OFFICIAL OF THE MINISTRY FOR ALL GERMAN AFFAIRS WHO IS CONNECTED WITH THE PRISONER EXCHANGE CHANNEL HAS IDENTIFIED ERICH HONECKER, EAST GERMAN SOCIALIST UNITY /COMMUNIST/ PARTY POLITBURO MEMBER AND POSSIBLE HEIR-APPARENT TO WALTER ULBRICHT, AS THE EAST GERMAN OFFICIAL ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRISONER EXCHANGE AND RANSOM PROGRAM. HONECKER TRANSMITS INSTRUCTIONS TO EAST GERMAN PROSECUTOR JOSEF STREIT, WHO THEN PASSES THEM TO VOGEL.//

4. AN OFFICIAL OF THE ALL GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY WHO IS FAMILIAR WITH EARLIER EAST GERMAN NEGOTIATIONS TO OBTAIN FELFE'S RELEASE CONSIDERS THE PRESENT DEAL GENEROUS IN

COMPARISON WITH EARLIER OFFERS.

5. HOWEVER, ANOTHER OFFICIAL OF THE SAME MINISTRY HAS EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE EAST GERMANS MIGHT HAVE BEEN PREVAILED UPON TO MAKE A BETTER OFFER. COMMENTING ON THE BND POSITION, HE SAID THAT GENERAL WESSEL, PRESENT CHIEF OF THE BND HAS BEEN MORE OPEN-MINDED REGARDING THE RELEASE OF FELFE THAN THE BND'S FORMER CHIEF, GENERAL REINHARD GEHLEN.

6. THE CHANCELLOR'S LONG DELAY IN APPROVING FELFE'S RELEASE CAUSED MOUNTING CONSTERNATION AMONG PRISONER EXCHANGE NEGOTIATORS. STOP-GAP ARRANGEMENTS DESIGNED TO KEEP THE PRISONER EXCHANGE CHANNEL OPEN PENDING KIESINGER'S DECISION INCLUDED A SERIES OF BODY-FOR-BODY EXCHANGES DURING THE CHRISTMAS 1968 HOLIDAYS AND THE RELEASE OF TWO CONVICTED EAST GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE AGENTS, WHO WERE IMPRISONED IN WEST GERMANY, IN RETURN FOR FOUR PERSONS HELD BY THE EAST GERMANS. TWO OF THE LATTER WERE RELEASED AS AN ADVANCE PAYMENT IN LATE DECEMBER OR EARLY JANUARY. ONE OF THE TWO STILL BEING HELD IS SWIMMING TRAINER WERNER UFER, WHOSE DETENTION HAS BEEN WIDELY PUBLICIZED IN THE WEST. THIS

THIS LATTER TRANSACTION INVOLVED A BUREAUCRATIC HASSLE BETWEEN THE MINISTRY FOR ALL GERMAN AFFAIRS AND AN OFFICIAL IN THE JUSTICE MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXCHANGE, WHO WAS RELUCTANT TO ARRANGE FOR THE RELEASE OF THE TWO EAST GERMAN AGENTS. THE MATTER WAS FINALLY SETTLED BY JUSTICE MINISTER GUSTAV HEINEMANN AND STATE SECRETARY HORST EHMKE.

7. ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL OF THE ALL GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY, PLANS FOR RESUMPTION OF THE CHILDREN'S RANSOM PROGRAM WERE MADE AS SOON AS IT WAS CLEAR THAT ALL FORMAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF FELLE WERE COMPLETE EXCEPT FOR THE CHANCELLOR'S APPROVAL. THE BALANCE OF THE PROGRAM FOR THE RELEASE OF THE CHILDREN FROM EAST GERMANY INVOLVES AN INITIAL RELEASE OF 250 CHILDREN AND NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE RELEASE OF AN ADDITIONAL 250. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT THESE DELIVERIES WILL SUBSTANTIALLY CLOSE OUT THE PROGRAM, EXCEPT FOR INDIVIDUAL NEW CASES.

8. FIELD DISSEM - USBER /ALSO SENT ☐ ☐  
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